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of furniture. It must have opportunity for its influences; it cannot write on walls which are covered with pictures, or make its voice heard above music and much talking; the life must be clear, affording space, and observing silence."

The essay on "Retirement" shows us our author supported by a sweet and sound philosophy through the most trying epoch in life. The last essay, "The Very End," faces the future with the courage and hopefulness which grow out of this same philosophy and we read the epilogue regretting keenly the necessity that such delightful books may not be continued indefinitely. The epilogue comes like a "grace after meat,"—a little expression of thankfulness for a life of hard work and exceeding satisfaction closing with the following words:

"The natural dignity of our work, its unembarrassed kindness, its insight into life, its hold on science,—for these privileges, and for all that they bring with them, up and up, high over the top of the tree, the very heavens open, preaching thankfulness. Circle above circle, the reasons for it are established, out of the reach of words."

THE MOTHER'S YEAR BOOK. By Marion Foster Washburne. The Macmillan Company, New York. Price, \$1.50 net.

The problems of the first year of childhood are very practically discussed in detail by an author who has presumably noticed how very deficient most books of advice to young mothers usually are, in little points, which are supposed to be supplied by common sense, in the mother or attendant. As a matter of fact common sense is very apt to overlook very small matters such as the exact degree of warmth in the cradle of a baby, the little individual traits that appear, in even a day old infant, as a dislike to lying on the right side or the left, the adjustment of the tiny garments, etc. The book is arranged in monthly parts for the first year of the baby's life, with an appendix on the care of the eyes of the newborn. Too many mothers are obliged to learn by experience the best method to care for their children; and it is only too commonly that we hear such expressions as "if I had known with my first baby, what I have learned *from* him, he would be a different child," or "I ruined my eldest child's disposition trying to find out how to treat him." Mrs. Washburne gives as good instruction on all these little points as is possible to receive, and as nearly as possible takes the part of actual experience. The book is smartly bound in blue and white, the cover decorated with a "bambino" in swaddling clothes, and contains plates of some of the most touching and beautiful pictures of the Madonna and Child.